RDA Update 2017 – Summary Notes

The following notes provide a summary of RDA changes affecting British Library cataloguing workflows. These changes are implemented by the April 2017 Release of the RDA Toolkit. Notes include the instruction labels and numbers affected. Changes to examples and see references are not included in the summary.

Monographs / Serials / Multiparts / Maps / Music / Early Printed Resources

Changes to Access Point (5.1.4), Variant Access Points Representing Works and Expressions (5.6), Purpose and Scope (6.0), General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points Representing Works (6.27.4.1), and specific instructions for musical, legal and religious works (6.28.4.1), (6.29.3.1), (6.30.5.1) which replace the phrase “variant title” with “title of work” as the basis for creating variant access points.

Changes to General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points Representing Works (6.27.4.1), Musical Works (6.28.4.1), Religious Works (6.30.5.1), Legal Works (6.29.3.1), specific instructions for parts, compilations and expressions of works (6.27.4.3), (6.27.4.4), (6.27.4.5), parts, compilations and expressions of musical works (6.28.4.3), (6.28.4.4), (6.28.4.5), parts and expressions of religious works (6.30.5.2) (6.30.5.3) and expressions of legal works (6.29.3.4) which replace the phrase “Include additional elements in the variant access point, if considered important for identification” with “Include additional elements in the variant access point as appropriate”.

Change to Quotations (1.10.3); BL will follow the option to omit the source of a quotation when it is from the preferred source of information with the exception of early printed resources.

Change to Language and Script (5.4) which adds that the attributes of a work or expression are to be recorded in a language and script “preferred by the agency creating the data unless the instructions for a specific element indicate otherwise”.

Changes to Language and Script (5.4) which add an exception for recording quotations and an alternative to this exception; BL will follow the alternative to record a quotation in a transliterated form.

Changes to Recording Language of Expression (6.11.1.3) and Recording Script (7.13.2.3) which remove the phrase “using an appropriate term or terms in a language preferred by the agency creating the data”.

Monographs / Serials

Change to Recording Other Distinguishing Characteristics of Legal Works (6.21.1.3) which adds exceptions for jurisdictions governed, protocols, etc.

New instructions and sub instructions for recording Jurisdiction Governed (6.21.1.4) and Protocol, Etc. (6.21.1.5).

Change to Laws Governing More Than One Jurisdiction (6.29.1.3) which adds criteria for constructing authorized access points.
Monographs / Early Printed Resources

Changes to Compilations of Works by Different Agents (6.27.1.4) and Commentary, Annotations, Illustrative Content, Etc., Added to a Previously Existing Work (6.27.1.6); BL will follow the alternatives when constructing authorized access points for commentaries, etc., added to previously existing works.

Music

Change to Serial Number (6.16.1.3.1) which adds the phrase “and script” to create the phrase “Record the caption in a language and script...”

Change to Scope (2.15.3.1) which adds that a plate number for notated music is sometimes followed a number corresponding to an individual page or plate.

Change to Recording Plate Number for Notated Music (2.15.3.3) which replaces the phrase “preceded by” with “includes” to create the sentence “If a number includes an abbreviation, word, or phrase identifying a publisher, include that abbreviation, word, or phrase as part of the number.”

Change to Recording Medium of Performance (6.15.1.3), mandating that a standard list of terms is applied; BL will apply the instructions on recording terms for Medium of Performance which have been added to the RDA Toolkit Tools tab.

Changes to Recording Medium of Performance (6.15.1.3) which restructure the different subcategories of medium of performance.

New instruction for recording Alternative Instruments and Voices (6.15.1.4)

New instruction for recording Doubling Instruments and Voices (6.15.1.5); BL will not apply the option to omit doubling instruments and voices.

New instruction for recording Number of Parts, Performers, Etc. (6.15.1.6) and sub instructions for Number of Parts or Performers for Each Instrument or Voice (6.15.1.6.1), Number of Hands for Each Instrument (6.15.1.6.2), Number of Ensembles (6.15.1.6.3), Total Number of Parts or Performers (6.15.1.6.4) and Total Number of Ensembles (6.15.1.6.5); BL will not apply the option to omit the number of parts or performers for an instrument or voice if there is only one part or performer for that instrument or voice; BL will not apply the option to omit the number of ensembles for a type of ensemble if there is only one ensemble of that type.

Change to Additional Elements in Authorized Access Points Representing Musical Works (6.28.1.9) which removes the limitation of its scope to titles that are not distinctive.

Changes to Additional Elements in Authorized Access Points Representing Musical Works (6.28.1.9), listing new criteria for including additional elements and new categories of additional element.

Change to Medium of Performance (6.28.1.9.1) which replaces the order of preference for adding medium of performance to authorized access points representing musical works with an order “preferred by the agency creating the data”.

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Changes to Medium of Performance (6.28.1.9.1) which restructure the different exceptions for adding medium of performance to authorized access points representing musical works.

**Early Printed Resources**

New general instruction on the description of Early Printed Resources (1.12) using RDA.

Changes to the glossary definition of an early printed resource which specify that the manifestation was manufactured using a “hand-pressed method” before the advent of machine printing in “the nineteenth century” rather than in “approximately 1825-1830”.

Change to General Guidelines (1.8.1) for numbers expressed as numerals or as words which replaces the alternative for early printed resources with an exception; the element “Numbering of serials” is replaced with more granular sub-elements; the sub-elements “Numbering within series” and “Numbering within subseries” are added.

Change to General Guidelines (1.8.1) for numbers expressed as numerals or as words which adds an optional addition for early printed resources; the BL will apply the option to add equivalent numerals in the form preferred by the agency creating the data: i.e. in Arabic numerals enclosed by square brackets for dates of production, publication, distribution and manufacture.

Changes to Bibliographic Format (3.12) and its sub instructions which remove the limitation of their scope to books.

Changes to Recording Bibliographic Format (3.12.1.3) and the glossary which add new standard terms and definitions to the list of bibliographic formats.

Changes to the glossary which add new terms and definitions for “bibliographic format” and “details of bibliographic format”.

Change to Other Details of Extent (3.21.2.11) which adds that notes on aspects of collation should be made if considered important for identification or selection.

**Authority Control**

Change to Purpose and Scope (9.0), (10.0), (11.0), General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points to Represent Persons (9.19.2.1), Families (10.11.2.1) and Corporate Bodies (11.13.2.1) replacing the phrases “variant name for” and “preferred name for” with “name of” person, family and corporate body.

Change to General Guidelines on Constructing Variant Access Points to Represent Persons (9.19.2.1), Families (10.11.2.1) and Corporate Bodies (11.13.2.1), replacing the phrase “Include additional elements in the variant access point, if considered important for identification” with “Include additional elements in the variant access point as appropriate”.

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